

Dear Parents/Carers,

As temperatures start to climb again and the extreme heat we are anticipating at the start of next week, I am writing to confirm the plans that we are putting in place at Bramcote College. We will be putting '*relaxed uniform*' expectations in place for the rest of this term. This means that we do not expect students to wear blazers or ties for the rest of this term. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask you to encourage your children to wear sun block and to bring a hat for outdoor wear along with a water bottle to school. Due to this heatwave, we have introduced new indoor break and lunch areas so students don't have to be outside in the sun, which includes rotating year groups into the 6th Form Common Room which has air conditioning. We are encouraging students to be as sensible as possible about using these indoor spaces, especially around the hottest parts of the day. We have also re roomed some of the IT lessons into air-conditioned rooms.

Future Uniform Plans

While hot weather requires necessary adjustments to uniform, I would also like to share with you a few future plans for uniform at Bramcote College. In response to requests from students we have been looking into the possibility of including suitable tailored shorts in the school uniform range and we are close to finalising this. In order to make shorts a suitable part of the school uniform, we have been working with our uniform suppliers who have found a design which will be able to be purchased from Big Fish online from September and can be worn in the first and last half terms of the school year (Autumn Term 1 - September to October and Summer Term 2 - May to July) when we typically experience our hottest weather in England. Shorts would still need to be worn with the usual blazer and tie and students would need to wear school shoes and black socks. More details will follow.

Uniform Swap Shop

This year the government has issued statutory guidance to schools about school uniform policy, aiming to keep the cost of uniform to a minimum and ensuring that parents and carers have some level of choice in where items are purchased.

Since the current uniform was introduced at Bramcote College we have always had two suppliers of branded items (Big Fish and Morleys) and at the design stage we made the decision not to include unnecessary branded items, such as trousers and skirts, which other schools had opted for and to make branded jumpers or cardigans entirely optional. We have also made a uniform bursary fund available on request to support with the purchase of any school uniform items.

In addition to this, we have always asked our departing Year 11s for donations of '*pre-loved*' school uniform and PE kits, which we have washed and used in our uniform store. Our uniform store has allowed us to support students who are missing items of uniform, or students who may need to go into a larger item of uniform, but cost might be an issue, so they can swap their smaller items for a larger replacement. This has been an important first step on the road to setting up a pre-loved uniform exchange in school. While primary schools are very successful in setting this up (because of the speed younger children grow out of their school uniform), it is often difficult to do the same with secondary school uniforms.

We would very much like to build up a uniform swap shop in the next school year, so we are putting out a request for any pre-loved uniform items and any parents and carers who think they might be able to offer some time to either clean donated uniform items or help to arrange a half termly event where parents can come along to school to swap items of uniform for different sizes, or to purchase items. Donated uniform items can be dropped off at main reception at any point in the school year. If you would be able to offer help in the organisation of the swap shop or washing uniform, please click on the link below, or scan the QR code:



<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kigUXB6JdE-JrjiFDhS2M-KcBj1iGFKoA-WLelkmhJURVFBMUdEM1hCRDE2UTBCTkREWIZaM0NZTC4u>

In closing, I would also like to thank you for your ongoing support in making the students at Bramcote College look so smart; the vast majority of our students come to school dressed suitably and ready for the working environment. The summer does, however, offer a valuable opportunity for some skirts to be replaced which have become too short as students have grown taller through the year. The expectation is that skirts should be on or slightly above the knee. In addition, there are a number of pupils who have taken to personalising ties with pen markings and graffiti. This is not acceptable and we'd ask that ties be laundered and free from graffiti and pen markings ready for the new September term. This might mean that a new tie will need to be purchased.

I would also like to remind you that school shoes should be flat, black shoes or low ankle boots (such as Chelsea boots), with minimal embellishments. A handful of students have been spoken to about wearing overly tall lace up boots which are more of a fashion statement than a school shoe.

As this term draws to a close, I would like to say how proud I am of our Bramcote College students; they have completed a full school year in the post-covid era, which has brought a range of challenges and triumphs. I look forward to what 2022-2023 will bring us and to a restful and enjoyable summer holiday in the meantime.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H Gale', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs H Gale

Headteacher

Bramcote College